

Sample Voice Output Communication Devices for Students Who Are Non-speaking or have Limited Intelligibility

Name of Device	Description	Linguistic Level of User	Cost
Big Mack*, One-Step Communicator*, Talking Plate, Say It Play It*, Partner/One	Activates a single message when pressed; easily recorded	Non-symbolic user - may or may not have communicative intent; may be beginning to learn picture-object association; may help to teach communicate cause and effect; may also be used as a supplementary device for higher-level users	\$
Step-by-step Communicator* *may also be used as a switch for other devices/toys/appliances	Capable of having series of messages activated by pressing the device sequentially; easily recorded	Non-symbolic or Beginning Symbolic Users - who are beginning to learn picture - object association; may also be used as a supplementary device for high level users	\$
Rocking Plate, Rocking Say It Play It*, Partner Two	Similar to single-message devices (above), but have two messages	Non-symbolic or Beginning Symbolic Users - who are beginning to learn picture - object association; may also be used as a supplementary device for high level users. May also help teach choice-making.	\$
Cheap Talk 4; Cheap Talk 8; Tech/Four; Partner Four; Hip Talk; Mini Message Mate	Have 4 - 8 messages; some are desktop and some are portable.	Beginning Symbolic Users - who have picture-object association and have a vocabulary of 2 to 8 words; may also be used as a supplementary device for higher-level users; may help teach choice-making	\$
Cheap Talk with Levels, Tech Talk; Mini Message Mate	Have 2 - 9 messages available at on time with levels which allows storage of recorded messages for several overlays; some are desktop and some are portable	Beginning Symbolic Users - who have picture-object association and have a vocabulary of 8 to 20 words	\$
Message Mate 20	Has 20 messages; portable; scanning capability	Beginning Symbolic Users - who have picture-object associating and have a vocabulary of 8 to 20 words	\$\$
Tech Speak	Has 32 Messages on 8 levels; portable	Symbolic Users with Beginning Sentence Structure - who have a vocabulary of roughly 32 - 70 words and may be beginning to combine symbols to create 2 - word utterances.	\$\$
Tech Scan' Tech Scan Plus	Similar to Tech Speak but has visual scanning; Tech Scan Plus also has auditory scanning	Symbolic Users with Beginning Sentence Structure - who have a vocabulary of roughly 32 - 70 words and may be beginning to combine symbols to create 2 - word utterances.	\$\$
Message Mate 40; Easy Talk	May have 10 - 40 messages; option: comes with levels; portable; scanning capability	Symbolic Users with Beginning Sentence Structure - who have a vocabulary of roughly 32 - 70 words and may be beginning to combine symbols to create 2 - word utterances. May be used as a supplementary device for a higher level user	\$\$
Macaw	Flexible, portable device with very large memory; can have 2 - 32 messages with up to 31 levels for (for 32 messages to); allows messages to be "linked" a sequence of 2 - 3 buttons produce a single message); has auditory and visual scanning; digitized (recorded) voice.	Symbolic Users with Beginning Sentence Structure - who have a vocabulary of roughly 32 - 70 words and may be beginning to combine symbols to create 2 - 3word utterances.	\$\$
Dynamo	Portable device with black and white dynamic display (computer touch screen); large picture symbol dictionary (DynaSyms); comes with some	Symbolic Users with Beginning Sentence Structure - who have a vocabulary of roughly 32 - 70 words and may be beginning to combine symbols to create 2 - 3word utterances.	\$\$

	preinstalled communication boards; messages must be recorded; will need to be customized requiring a significant amount of programming; "pages" may have 1 to 32 symbols per page; may have a message bar for repeating sequences of messages; visual scanning		
Alpha Talker	Portable device that uses "Minispeak"/"Unity" which allows access to large vocabulary using multi-meaning icons (has icon prediction); static overlays (may have 4 to 32 locations); digitized (recorded) voice	Designed for children who may become Advanced Symbol Users - as young as 18 months linguistic level up to around 30 - 36 months linguistic level; may develop the ability to make multiple associations to single icons; have growing vocabulary and require a device that can access vocabulary quickly; may move on to Vantage or Pathfinder	\$\$
SpringBoard	Portable device that uses "Minispeak" / "Unity" which allows access to large vocabulary using multi-meaning icons (has icon prediction); has color dynamic display (touch screen); has options for 4, 8, 15, and 32 key displays and small activity row/message bar; uses digitized speech; contains large vocabulary of core and fringe vocabulary for young children; messages pre-recorded with a child's voice; visual and auditory scanning; may be accessed by infrared headpointer; comes with teaching software	Designed for children as young as 18 months linguistic level up to around 30 - 36 months linguistic level who may become Advanced Symbol Users; may develop the ability to make multiple associations to single icons; have growing vocabulary; may move on to Vantage or Pathfinder	\$\$
Portable IMPACT Tablet	Portable, dynamic screen (color) device; comes with basic package of Mayer-Johnson symbols; may be ordered with linguistic software which is extra: Mayer-Johnson Symbol Pack (therapist or teacher must design screens and program "pages" for user); Word Power/Picture Word Power (uses written words or pictures plus written words to create sentences + text-to-speech); Velocity (pre-programmed, phrase-based for pages common school activities;	Designed for individuals who need a portable device with the software available for the Tablet. <u>Mayer-Johnson Symbol Pack</u> : users who have the capability of learning many of these symbols and who may be combining 2 to 3 words, but don't need word endings (approximately 18 months to 30 months linguistically). <u>Velocity</u> : for elementary school-age children who would benefit from these pre-programmed activity-based, phrase-based pages. <u>WordPower/Picture WordPower</u> : users who need to create grammatically correct sentences and have good reading and spelling skills; <u>Picture WordPower</u> provides additional support from pictures but user still needs good spelling skills.	\$\$\$
Dynamite and DynaVox	Color dynamic display devices; DynaMyte is portable, DynaVox requires a laptray or wheelchair mount; comes with "gateway" linguistic software which allows user to generate grammatically correct sentences with levels from 18 months linguistic level to adults; designed to have users move through the various linguistic levels as skills develop; other linguistic software extra: display may have 1 to 75 symbols; message bar; text-to-speech with	Designed for users who are or may become Advanced Symbol Users - have large vocabulary which they need to access easily; need word endings and function words (a, an, have, is, however), and produce grammatically correct complex sentences; May also be for lower level (as low as 18 months linguistic level) who may "grow into" this device	\$\$\$\$

	spelling and word prediction; visual and auditory scanning; can be accessed by mouse emulator		
Vantage	Portable device that uses "Minispeak"/"Unity" which allows access to large vocabulary using multi-meaning icons (has icon prediction); also has "Word Core" software (a word-based communication program for literate users); text-to-speech capability with spelling and word prediction; has a color dynamic display (touch screen) with 32-screen locations (4, 8, and 45 screen locations also available); uses synthesized and digitized speech; contains huge vocabulary of core and fringe vocabulary; message bar and act	Designed for users who are or may become Advance Symbol Users - have large vocabulary which they need to access easily; need word endings and function words (a, have, is) and produce complex sentences: May also be for users on a somewhat lower level who show possibility of "growing into" this device.	\$\$\$\$
Gemini (MAC platform) Mercury (PC platform)	Computers that have been adapted to function as full- featured AAC devices, allowing the user the functions of a computer and a voice-output device in one; has its own communication software		\$\$\$\$